

Soldiers aim for excellence in IMCOM-E competition



Brandon Beach

Sgt. Adam Villareal of U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza focuses on the target May 21 in Panzer Kaserne's indoor range during the Installation Management Command Europe Region's Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition. Villareal was one of 11 Soldiers who competed over three days in Stuttgart.

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Panzer Dining Facility competes in Connelly

Food program managers from Installation Management Command Europe Region visit the Panzer DFAC in May as part of the Phillip A. Connelly Awards Program.



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Garrisons celebrate cultural heritage

USAG Stuttgart and Garmisch host Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month celebrations in May featuring festive dances and remarks by local leaders.



Asian-Pacific-American Heritage Month

Students reflect on role models in essay competition

By Milan Juliano

Who do I think of when I think of an Asian Pacific Islander who pursued excellence through leadership, diversity and unity? Patsy Takemoto Mink, that's who.

On Dec. 6, 1927, a very important Pacific Asian Islander was born in Paia, Maui County, Hawaii. This woman, Patsy, went to school in Hawaii. She was the first girl elected student body president. She also graduated class valedictorian.

Often she was criticized for being of Japanese decent. She was the first Asian American woman to practice law on the beautiful island of Hawaii. She went to college in Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Hawaii.

She later went to the House of Representatives. She was heavily involved in United States politics. She was loyal and would always represent Hawaii in all she did. She was involved in many things with the United States government.

Patsy lived from 1927 to 2002. She invested 74 years of her life to make a positive difference not only in the United States, but also on this earth.

Patsy went to many colleges and universities, so she could be equipped with as much knowledge as possible and understand the human race and how they think. As a result of going to many colleges, she was widely accepted and respected by the world. She is a huge celebrity when it comes to politics in Hawaii.

But she did not join the House of Representatives and dedicate her life to positive change to become famous; she did it because she had the passion and drive to do what is right. She also had a desire to lend a hand and make a difference to the United States.

Why are these facts so important? She clearly led the way and pursued excellence through leadership, diversity and unity. She was a leader in fighting discrimination. If she did not want to help the United States, she could have just sat back on the beach in Hawaii, enjoyed the scenery and relaxed. But

Stuttgart-area youth were recognized for their writing efforts during the Garrison's May 18 Asian-Pacific ceremony on Patch Barracks.

she did not. That already says a lot about her. She took the initiative to help make the world a better place.

She helped because she had a vision and a burning desire. Wherever there was a problem with diversity or unity, she was there. She was and is of course an awesome role model for women all over the world. Even if someone were to have grown up poor and with little education, there is still hope that they can help the world with its problems and make a positive difference.

I feel strongly about Asians helping out the United States. I have some Korean and Japanese roots in me. On my mom's side, my great grandfather is Korean, and my great grandmother is Japanese. I have had the privilege of traveling all over the Pacific. I have lived in Korea and Japan. I have vacationed in Hawaii, worked on a mission to rebuild houses after the tsunami in Thailand and went on a home school field trip to study Chinese.

Because of this, I feel like I understand Asian people and their culture. I know that when an Asian woman wants something, she will go the distance to get it, whatever it may be, no matter how much work it takes, she will get it.

I agree that Patsy was an amazing woman, and she helped the United States out tremendously. I don't know, but I bet she was also a good person and a good cook since she was an Asian Pacific Islander.

In conclusion, Patsy was a champion. She is remembered for her great voice for peace and education. Over and over again, people who knew her said that she was the first of many great things. She is a lady to be respected for how she lived her life and how she influenced humankind.

Juliano is an eighth-grader at Böblingen Elementary/Middle School. This essay was the winner of the sixth-to-eighth-grade category.

ABOUT THE ESSAYS

The essays reprinted on this page were the two category winners from the "Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration Month" essay contest sponsored by U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart's Equal Opportunity Office.

Students who entered the contest were asked to write about the Asian Pacific Islander American who has positively

contributed to our Nation. The theme of this year's recognition ceremony was "Pursuing Excellence through Leadership, Diversity and Unity." The contest was open to students at Patch, Panzer and Robinson schools.

For more about the essay contest, call Sgt. 1st Class Chrysti Lassiter-Jones at DSN 421-2892.

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Student 'proud' of ethnic background

By Tia Michele Juliano

Throughout the history of the United States, Asian Pacific Islanders have contributed to the American society. Some ways they have contributed to our nation is through education, sports, government and entertainment.

One particular person who has contributed to our country through education and sports is Eldrick Woods. Most people know him as Tiger Woods. Tiger Woods is a military brat and a United States citizen. He attended Stanford University for two years, and lives in Orlando, Florida. Tiger's father "Earl Woods" was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army.

Eldrick's nickname, "Tiger" was given to him by his father in memory of a Vietnamese soldier and friend of his father, whom his father had also given that nickname. Eldrick had a very good relationship with his father; after all, his father was the one who turned him on to golf at a very early age. Also, many people don't know a very important fact about Tiger Woods. Yes, he is African American, but he is also Asian American, and proud of it.

Here is what Tiger said to the media about this heritage. "Yes, I am the product of two great cultures, one African American and the other Asian. On my father's side, I am African American. On my mother's side, I am Thai.

Truthfully, I feel very fortunate and equally proud to be both African American and Asian. The critical and fundamental point is that ethnic background and/or composition should not make a difference. It does not make a difference to me. The bottom line is that I am an American and proud of it!"

Tiger Woods is a very successful athlete. At six months, he was already imitating his father's golf stroke. He grew up to be one of the greatest golfers of all time. One June 15, 1997, in his 42nd week as a professional, Tiger became the youngest-ever No. 1 golfer at age 21. He became the first ever to hold all four professional major gold championships at the

same time. He has the most wins among active players on the PGA tour and has made the most money as professional golfer with prize money and sponsors.

Tiger Woods created the Tiger Woods Foundation in 1996, with the help and support of his father. By 2003 the program had over 1 million participants and growing. It focuses on projects for disabled American children to reach their own goals and their potential.

For example, the Tiger Woods Learning Center's mission is to provide young people with a broader perspective of the world; a clearer understanding of his or her own skills; and the tolls to achieve long-term personal success. The Tiger Woods Foundation also provides grants to kids who have skill but who may not have the money it takes to train to become the best junior golfer they can be.

The Foundation's next project will take place in July of 2007 in Washington D.C., a junior golf clinic, and a free-to-all festival. The golf clinics are open to any and everybody within the ages of seven to 17 and their families.

I have had the honor and privilege to live and travel to China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, and Hawaii with my family and friends. Along with being American and Italian, I am also part Korean and Japanese, and just like Tiger Woods, I am VERY PROUD of my heritage. Tiger Woods' example is only one of the great achievements of Asian Pacific Islanders.

Many Asian Pacific Islanders have become very successful in the American society. At the current age of 31 years, Tiger Woods has been a great role model and has done a lot of good for our country and continues to do more.

I hope many more Asian Pacific Islanders will continue to contribute to the American society as they pursue excellence through leadership, diversity and unity.

Juliano is an fifth-grader at BEMS. This essay was the winner of the third-to-fifth-grade category.



While a bugler plays 'Taps' in the distance, Joseph Perez, a member of the Patch High School JROTC Honor Guard, stands at attention as members of the Stuttgart military community pay tribute to fallen Soldiers May 28 on Patch.

Memorial Day 2007

Stuttgart honors service members who made 'ultimate sacrifice'

Story & photo by Brandon Beach

Under a gray and drizzly sky, members of the Stuttgart military community gathered on Patch Barracks' Washington Square May 28 to pay tribute to the more than a million U.S. service men and women who have died while serving their nation.

"We are reminded on this day that in every generation brave men and women will step forward to take the oath of allegiance as members of America's Armed Forces, willing to fight, and if necessary, die for the sake of freedom," said Michael Sloan, commander of the American Legion Post 6, which sponsored this event.

The bond we forged on the battlefield can never be broken.

Donald Owens
VFW Post 10810

Following opening remarks by Sloan, Stuttgart Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810 Commander Donald Owens noted the special meaning that participants carry away from Memorial Day gatherings of this type.

"The bond we forged on the battlefield can never be broken," said Owens, as he was flanked by members of the Patch High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, who posted the colors during the half-hour ceremony.

"Let us pay homage to those miss-

ing in action, who are simply marked 'unknown.' They are not forgotten," he said.

Later in the ceremony, Sloan returned to the podium to tell the story of Army Pfc. 1st Class Nicholas Madaras, a member of the National Guard's 4th Infantry Division, who found a way to connect to the many Iraqi children he met while on duty. It came through the international game of soccer. Madaras was an avid soccer player.

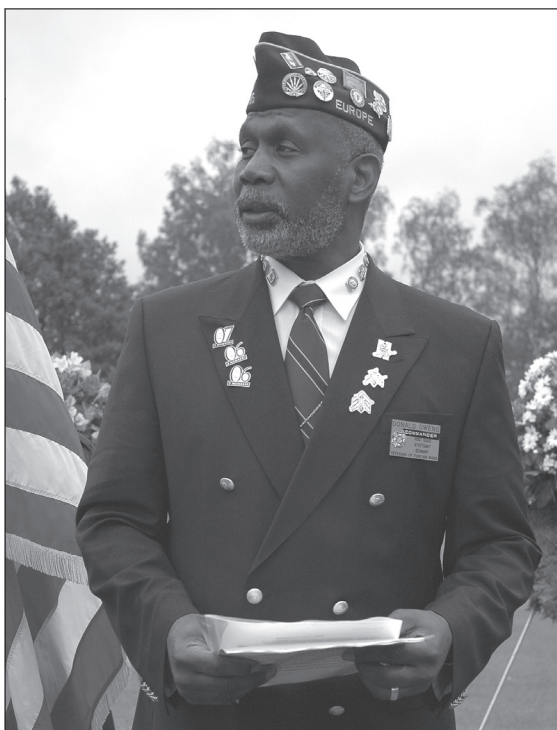
Sensing this bond, Madaras immediately called his father, Bill Madaras of Wilton, Conn., to mail a package of soccer balls to Iraq, so he could pass them out to the local youth.

"He loved children and went out of his way to bring a smile to a child's face," read Sloan.

Unfortunately, on Sept. 3, 2006, Pfc. 1st Class Madaras was killed due to injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device exploded near his patrol in Baqubah, Iraq.

His father, a member of American Legion Post 86, set up the "Kick for Nick" program to collect soccer balls for Iraqi children.

"More than a million American service members, like Pfc. Madaras, have died in wars and conflicts this nation has fought since the first colonial Soldiers took up arms back in 1775," said Sloan. "That is why we are gathered here ... to honor the memory of our fallen Warriors who have made the ultimate sacrifice for



Stuttgart's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10810 Commander Donald Owens gives remarks during the May 28 Memorial Day ceremony held near the flagpole on Patch Barracks' Washington Square.

our country."

Under the flagpole on Washington Square, a bugler concluded the ceremony by playing "Taps," as community members paid a solemn tribute to the American flag and the nation's fallen heroes.

The VFW Post 10810 meets the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m., in the Post Community Club, Building 2345, Patch Barracks.

For more information on this and other VFW Post 10810 events contact Donald Owens, post commander, at dowensmerc@yahoo.com.

News & Notes

Shuttle Bus service change

The Stuttgart Shuttle Bus Service has changed operating hours. New schedules have been posted at all the bus stops. The new schedule provides more frequent runs between the installations and includes additional direct runs between Robinson Barracks and Panzer Kaserne.

For more information on the new shuttle schedules call Ray Eden at 421-2472 or 0711-729-2472.

New hours for Kelley Legal Office

Beginning July 1, the Kelley Legal Assistance Office will offer the following opening hours for legal services: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The office will be closed from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Legal assistance is always closed on Thursdays. For more information, call 421-4152 or 0711-729-4152.

Conduct meetings, trainings at DTF

The Joint Multinational Training Command, Digital Training Facility on Panzer Kaserne has several classrooms set up with multimedia computer stations, Internet access and video tele-training.

For more information, call 431-2329.

MBA program to start in Stuttgart

You can help bring a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) program to the Stuttgart Education Center. The University of Phoenix is scheduling classes to begin in June, one night a week, at the Stuttgart Education Center, Building 2915, Panzer Kaserne.

For more information, contact Maria Neelands at 373-7650/civ. 06221-588-0492 or e-mail Maria.Neelands@phoenix.edu.

AFTB Training June 14

Come to the Army Family Team Building Level One Training course June 14, 10 a.m., in the Army Community Service Office, Building 2915 on Panzer Kaserne.

Topics covered include supporting your child's education and "Stress Spa," where you can learn relaxation techniques and how to prevent the negative effects of stress.

The class is open to all service members, civilian personnel and family members. Children are welcome. For more information, call ACS at 431-3362

Mandatory ASAP Training

The Stuttgart Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Office has finalized its schedule for annual ASAP training opportunities.

ASAP training is mandatory for Department of the Army civilians; however, all military personnel, local nationals and contractors are invited and highly encouraged to attend the training.

For more information, call 431-2530 or 07031-15-2530 or e-mail scott.maylender@eur.army.mil.

Stuttgart Open golf tourney

The Stuttgart Golf Club hosts the 2007 Stuttgart Open June 16 to 17. The competition is 36-hole stroke play, open to golfers with a current official USGA handicap index or the Golf Federation of their home course.

Entry forms may be picked up at the Pro Shop or sent via e-mail to thomas.l.carter@us.army.mil.

For more information, call 07141-879151.

"European Experience" photo contest

What have you seen to make you thankful of your time spent in Europe? The American Red Cross wants to reward you for your best photograph of your European experience.

The first-place winner will receive half the entry fee proceeds. The second-place winner will receive one free health & safety class of their choice. The third-place winner will receive a Red Cross teddy bear.

Photos must be at least 4 by 6. The cost is \$5 for your first entry, \$2 for every subsequent entry. Half the entry fee proceeds will support the Stuttgart Red Cross volunteer programs. Winners will be chosen by a panel of Red Cross volunteers on June 15.

Upon submission, all photos become property of the American Red Cross and will not be returned to the contestants.

For details, contact the American Red Cross Office on Panzer Kaserne in Building 2915.

Connelly inspection team visits Panzer DFAC

Army's culinary awards program recognizes best in Europe



Spc. Reece Zunino, a cook at the Panzer Dining Facility, prepares rotisserie chicken May 3. The facility recently competed in this year's Phillip A. Connelly Award Program.

Story & photo by Brandon Beach

Verlena Wilson prefers to eat last at the chow line. "I get to see what the last guy is paying for," said the IMCOM-Europe food program manager, who visited the Panzer Dining Facility May 10 as part of the Philip A. Connelly Awards Program.

This year, the Panzer DFAC is representing USAG Stuttgart in the competition's small garrison category, an award it won back in 2005. It was a finalist in the Army-wide field that same year. In 2006, the facility was unable to participate due to heavy troop deployments.

The kitchen staff is made up of personnel from both the 1/10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and the 554th Military Police Company. Both units are assigned to Panzer Kaserne.

The facility serves both breakfast and lunch Monday to Friday. Without a meal card program, the facility is open to Soldiers, civilians and their guests.

"We pretty much feed everyone here," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Shimon, commander of the Panzer DFAC, who noted that for the past three months, the staff has practiced their Connelly meal every Thursday to hone their routine.

"It's been a real team effort," said Frank Mottin, USAG Stuttgart food program manager. "Everybody here has been cross-trained in all areas. We make sure everyone can do the same job."

Background

Since 1968, the Connelly program has recognized the Army's outstanding dining facilities. Categories include small and large garrisons, field kitchens, National Guard and Reserves.

"Everybody here has been cross-trained in all areas. We make sure everyone can do the same job."

Frank Mottin
USAG Stuttgart

"The winner will be near flawless in the end," said Wilson, who was joined by William Evans, also an IMCOM-E food program manager, during the visit. "The smallest detail can make all the difference."

The IMCOM-E inspection team spent the better half of the day reviewing food preparation procedures, walking through storage areas, tasting food samples, grilling cooks on culinary terms and interviewing the everyday diners.

"That's probably where we get our best information," said Evans. "The diners will tell you the truth."

With some 20 garrisons competing just within Europe, the inspection team has a busy schedule ahead. Winners will be announced later this year and will go on to represent IMCOM-E at the Army-wide level.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the culinary awards program. It is sponsored by the International Food Service Executives Associations and the Army's Center of Excellence, Subsistence.

For more information on the Connelly program, visit www.quartermaster.army.mil.

The Patriot, Kelley Deli aim to offer the best food in town

Story by Larry Reilly

There's a new chef in town, and he and his posse of 20 catering specialists aim to offer an appetizing food menu at three major Stuttgart American military locations, a feat that has not been attempted by any individual food entity here in many years.

After Bill Butler, the head chef and owner of The Patriot Restaurant and Catering, put together the right business recipe to secure the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, Morale Welfare and Recreation food services contract in April and earn the rights to set up his operations at the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks, he went to work cooking up the type of recipes he is best known for; the mouth-watering type.

Butler quickly renamed the Sliders Lounge to The Patriot Restaurant & Bar and offered up some of his good-old American recipes that drew rave reviews from day one.

"There are many personal recipes I plan to share with the community, but what I wanted to open up with were some favorites that go great with finger foods and the quick meal type menu we offer at the restaurant and bar," said Butler, who offered up his world-famous salsa and barbecue recipes. "The salsa was a big hit and we still find it difficult to keep

There are many personal recipes I plan to share with the community ... I hope to offer three full meal specials per day on top of the main menu and bring back the salad bar.

Bill Butler

MWR Food Services Contractor

enough on hand to meet the daily demand."

'Finest ingredients'

The Patriot is attracting a decent lunch time crowd between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by focusing on the customers' desire and need for fast food. During the evening meal served between 4:30 and 9 p.m. on week days and 10 p.m. on weekends, Butler goes to his full meal menu.

"I hope to offer three full meal specials per day on top of the main menu and bring back the salad bar," said Butler, a French-trained chef who prides himself on having the finest of ingredients from his homemade dressings to the fresh broth for his soups and seasonings. "You'll never find bullion cube

seasonings in my kitchen."

His customers are not limited to trying out his recipes just at The Patriot Restaurant & Bar on Patch Barracks, he also caters to a variety of functions and has opened a food outlet at Kelley Barracks and is working on a food outlet on Robinson Barracks.

"At the Swabian, we can cater to functions from 10 to 200 people; it all depends on the type of food and setup of the tables," said Ann Wolfe, who is Butler's office manager and points out that they can also cater at other locations. "We have already catered a couple of functions at the newly-opened Panzer Hall."

Deli expands food options

Just recently, Butler expanded his cooking operations with the opening of the Kelley Deli inside the Kelley Bar on Kelley Barracks.

"Right now, we serve sandwiches and salads from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. to meet the needs of the lunch time crowd," Butler said. "We will look to expand our operations by providing evening meals when the customer base and demand is there."

Sunset Grill to open on RB

With the closing of Pizza Hut last year, there has been a lack of a food locations at Robinson Barracks, something that didn't go unnoticed by the Stuttgart Garrison command or the newly contracted chef.

"We plan to open the Sunset Bar & Grill inside the RB Community Center on June 7," said Butler. "We will start out with an evening meal from 5 to 9 p.m. and serve a sandwich and salad type menu until business catches on."

Promising to provide an appetizing food menu at three major Stuttgart American military locations seems like a large order to fill, but Butler states he doesn't plan to put too much on his plate until he has enough customers to enjoy the meal.

For more information on The Patriot Restaurant & Bar or for catering services, call 430-8205 or 0711-6808205.

Army's law enforcement agency seeks agents

CID Release

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, has an all points bulletin out for qualified Soldiers who want to become highly-trained special agents.

During peacetime and war, CID agents investigate felony-level crimes in which the Army has an interest, provide protective services for Department of Defense and Army leadership and work closely with other federal, state and local law enforcement and intelligence agencies to solve crime and combat terrorism around the world.

Agents receive training at the U.S. Army Military Police School and advanced training in a wide range of specialized investigative disciplines. Some specialties include polygraphs, counter-narcotics, economic-crime investigations, computer crime and many other specialties in the criminal investigation field. With more than 200 offices worldwide, CID even has an airborne CID detachment at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"We are always looking for qualified prospects to join CID and special agents are a unique breed," said Special Agent Paul Hudson, CID chief of operations. "Living the law enforcement lifestyle is a challenge our special agents willingly accept and dedicate their lives to ... it takes a special kind of person to muster that type of dedication."

Special agents also have the opportunity to receive advanced law enforcement training at the FBI National Academy, the Canadian Police College and at George Washington University where they can pursue a master's degree in forensic science.

"Educating our agents in all facets of law enforcement is a top priority within CID," said Hudson. "We strive to give the agents all the best training available ... a smarter agent, makes for a stronger Army."

Qualifications

To qualify applicants must be a U.S. citizen, be at least 21-years-old and have at least two years of military experience but not more than 10, have a physical profile 222221 or higher, normal color vision and an ST score of 110 or higher (ST 107 if tested on or after 2 January 2002). They must be able to speak and write clearly, have two years of college or at least 60 semester credit hours,



Highly-trained special agents from the Criminal Investigative Command solve crime and combat terrorism around the world. CID seeks qualified Soldiers to fill positions.

maximum grade of E-5 Sergeant (non-promotable), be able to complete 60 months of service obligation upon completion of the Apprentice Special Agent Course, have no record of psychological or pathological personality disorders and no record of unsatisfactory credit, have suitable character established by a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) leading to a Top Secret clearance and have no civil court or court martial convictions.

Prior military or civilian law enforcement experience is preferred, but it is not a requirement to enter the program. There are numerous Soldier and civilian special agents throughout CID who come from various military occupational specialties ranging from field artillerymen to administrative clerks.

Becoming an agent

Special Agent Nicholas Pappas, who was a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic prior to becoming a CID special agent, says that his

ity of the Soldier, I understand the 'food chain' and at which points the system could break down."

Pappas said that his nine years with CID have been great; working alongside other CID special agents, as well as other federal and local law enforcement personnel, is an opportunity few other Army jobs can boast. He also touted the finer aspects of being an agent and of CID itself.

"Agents are given a lot of independence so you have to have a lot of self-discipline," said Pappas. "I run my own calendar and keep my own hours, so you have to be disciplined."

Speaking about CID the organization, Pappas said that, "within CID, honesty and integrity are of the utmost importance and every special agent understands the commitment to finding the truth."

Marianne Godin, chief of the accreditation division, added that regardless of an applicant's background, they must possess excellent communication skills and be able to interact effectively with people from varied backgrounds.

"Becoming a special agent takes more than just being good at the pistol range or book smarts," said Godin. "A special agent has to learn how to adjust their method of verbal communication to get to the information they are looking for ... they must also learn how to uncover information from someone's nonverbal cues as well."

Soldiers interested in becoming CID Special Agents are encouraged to contact the nearest CID office or visit www.cid.army.mil for more information.

About CID

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command is charged with investigating serious crimes of Army concern. CID has approximately 120 offices worldwide, 19 Reserve and six National Guard units whose agents perform a variety of law enforcement tasks.

CID also has a state-of-the-art, fully accredited forensics laboratory and has the additional mission of providing Secret Service like protection for Department of Defense and Department of the Army officials.

For more information visit, www.cid.army.mil or call the Stuttgart CID Office at 421-2637 or civ. 0711-729-2637.

"We are always looking for qualified prospects to join CID, and special agents are a unique breed."

Paul Hudson
Chief of Operations, CID

experience in the field afforded him a wealth of knowledge that he's used throughout his career as an agent, particularly while deployed.

"Coming from a line unit gave me a lot of insight into how units operated," said Pappas. "So I understand the field mental-

Emergency numbers to know in Stuttgart & Garmisch

Ambulance: 116

- Stuttgart civ. 0711-680-116
- Garmisch civ. 08821-750-116

Military Police: 114

- Stuttgart civ. 0711-680-114
- Garmisch civ. 08821-750-114
- * Emergencies Only *

Fire Department: 117

- Stuttgart civ. 0711-680-117
- Garmisch civ. 08821-750-117

Chaplain's Office

- Stuttgart 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000
- Garmisch 440-2819/civ. 08821-750-2819

*For non-emergencies call the MP desk
Stuttgart: 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262
Garmisch: 440-3801/civ. 08821-750-3801*

Family Advocacy Program

- Stuttgart 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176
- Garmisch 440-2584/civ. 08821-750-2584

Victim's Advocate

- Stuttgart 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176
- After hours handy 0176-262-48894

Social Work Services

- Stuttgart 431-2627/civ. 07031-15-2627

SNAP Program

- Stuttgart 430-5560/civ. 07031-15-5560
- Garmisch 440-3618/civ. 08821-750-3618

Emergency numbers & other on-post contact information also available online at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

Tell Me a Story

USAG Stuttgart hosts Mercedes Wild and the 'Chocolate Pilot'

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Release

More than 100 adults and children gathered May 24 inside the Panzer Hall just outside Panzer Kaserne to listen to General William E. Ward read a book and meet the main character featured in the book.

As the Deputy Commanding General, Headquarters United States European Command read the book "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot," the book's main character, Mercedes Wild, just an arm's distance away, smiled, laughed and at times shed some tears as General Ward's book reading talents craftily helped his young attentive audience of German and American elementary students understand what life was like for Mercedes Wild when she was a young girl living in Berlin, Germany just after World War II.

The book reading session was the first in a four-book series sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition that children and parents within the community will have the opportunity to participate in over the course of a year. The remaining three books will be read one at a time during each of the next three quarters.

Although the book that General Ward read did outline the difficulties of life for Mercedes Wild in the 1940s, it centered more on a unique relationship she had established with an American pilot, who often dropped chocolate candy parachutes to the children as he flew over them during his Berlin Airlift missions.

General Ward read how Mercedes Wild attempted to catch the falling candies but could not reach over the other taller children; so she decided to write a letter to the pilot.

In her letter, Mercedes gave the pilot directions to where she lived so he could drop some chocolates in her yard next to the white chickens and signed it, "your little friend Mercedes."

Weeks had passed since she sent her letter and no chocolates had rained from above, but one day Mercedes received a package mailed from Tempelhof Airfield.

Mercedes Wild did not get another package from her Chocolate Pilot, but she did get to meet him in person in 1972 and to this day, they keep in touch.

After giving General Ward a round of applause, the children from the elementary schools at Robinson Barracks, Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne as well as from Osterfeldschule in Vaihingen were able to ask Mercedes questions that ranged from how old she was then and now to how often she gets to see the Chocolate Pilot.

"I was seven years old then and I am 66 years old with grand children now. The pilot, Gail Halvorsen, is now 86 years old and still fly's airplanes," said Mercedes Wild. "We plan to get together next month when he visits us in Berlin."

As a gesture of the community's appreciation for her visit and the sharing of her story, the Garrison Commander, Col. Kenneth G. Juergens presented Mercedes with a glass-encased copy of her book surrounded by EUCOM and USAG Stuttgart commemorative coins. He also thanked General Ward for his excellent reading of the book and Mrs. Joyce Ward for bringing the Wild's here and hosting Mercedes



Children and adults give Gen. William E. Ward, deputy commander of U.S. European Command, a round of applause following his reading of the children's book, "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot," May 24 in Panzer Hall.

In her letter, Mercedes gave the pilot directions to where she lived so he could drop some chocolates in her yard next to the white chickens and signed it, "your little friend Mercedes."

Excerpt from "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot"

and husband Peter in her home during their three-day stay here.

Concerted community effort

Also receiving words of praise from the garrison commander and an award was Juanita Harvin for her support in also bringing the Tell Me a Story to the Stuttgart community. "The Tell Me a Story program is a great program that it offers one generation the opportunity to pass its gifts and talents on to another generation," said Juergens, who also paid tribute many others in the community who helped contribute to the event.

"The members of the CYS (Child and Youth Service) and Michael Lamprecht and his crew at DPTMS (Directorate of Plans Training Mobilization and Security) went out of their way to ensure this event was outstanding all did a great job to ensure this event went off without a hitch."

After the interview of Mercedes Wild,



[Above] Col. Kenneth G. Juergens, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, presents Wild with a glass-encased copy of her book surrounded by EUCOM and USAG Stuttgart commemorative coins. [Below] Wild and Ward field questions at Panzer Hall May 24.

the children were broken into small project groups where they talked about the book with the focus on family traditions and then they made their own parachutes.

As a parting gesture to the children and their parents, both Mercedes Wild and General Ward handed out signed copies of the book and some chocolates to the families.

The book reading session is the first in a four-book series sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition that children and parents within the community will have the opportunity to participate in over the course of the year. For more information about MCEC visit www.militarychild.org.





[Above] Ohana Okaina Mau Loa dancers performed May 18 in the Patch gym.

[Left] Col. Kenneth G. Juergens, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart, presents a certificate of appreciation and a \$100 savings bond check to Tia Juliano, a fifth-grader at BEMS, for her winning essay.

[Below] Edgar Auxilian of the Philippine Embassy was the event's featured speaker.

[Right] Michal Kneff and other dancers performed at the Garmisch Commissary.



Stuttgart, Garmisch celebrate Asian-Pacific-American heritage

USAG Stuttgart Public Affairs Office Release

Hundreds of community members in the U.S. Army Stuttgart and Garmisch Garrisons received a unique insight into the various cultures and customs of the countries that make up the Asian-Pacific region as celebrations were conducted in recognition of Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Stuttgart's May 18 ceremony followed a day after Garmisch held its celebration and both events were highlighted with a guest speaker appearance by Edgar "Gary" Auxilian, the Second Secretary, Consul and Officer in Charge, Philippine Embassy Bonn Extension Office.

"On Oct 5, 1978, former President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the celebration of the Asian-Pacific heritage," Auxilian said during the Stuttgart celebration. "The Purpose was to recognize their achievements and honor their contributions to the United States."

Both community celebrations included various cultural performances by such groups as the Philippine Pearl Dancers, the Samoa Matalasi Dance Group, Dancers from Thai, Hawaii and Korea, and a Tae Kwon Do demonstration.

As the community members were being treated to a visual array of cultural rituals on the stage, they also treated to an assortment cultural food samples from more than a dozen countries.

In Stuttgart, the audience included many students from the Garrison schools. Two in particular were Tia Juliano and Malan Juliano, who were awarded achievement certificates and savings bonds by the U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart Commander, Col. Kenneth G. Juergens for their winning essays in the Asian-Pacific Heritage contest. Many city officials from the surrounding German communities were also took part in the annual Asian-Pacific celebrations.

The following individuals and groups were among those who were noted for their efforts in ensuring this year's celebration was one to remember:

- Sgt. 1st Class Chrysti L. Lassiter-Jones USAG Stuttgart EO and Christina Daniel, USAG Stuttgart EEO and their planning committees
- Lt. Col. Editha P. Heberlein, European Command, who sang the German and the American National Anthems
- USAG Stuttgart Chaplain Lt. Col. (P) Thomas E. Preston, who gave the invocation
- Senior Master Sgt. Froilan Cabalar and his wife, Joann Dedrick-Cabalar, who served as dual Masters of Ceremony
- USAG Stuttgart DPTMS Graphic Section
- USAG Stuttgart DMWR Marketing Section
- USAG Stuttgart DES
- Stuttgart USO
- Training Support Services



Hawaiian dancers performed May 18 during Stuttgart's Asian Pacific Heritage celebration in the Patch gym.

Soldiers aim for excellence in IMCOM-E competition

Events held throughout garrison test Soldiers' physical, mental toughness



Story and photos by Brandon Beach

Call it the Army's version of the Olympic decathlon. Eleven Soldiers assigned to various European-based military garrisons spent three days undergoing a comprehensive evaluation of skills ranging from physical fitness to Army knowledge to their ability to remain poised under pressure.

Contested May 21 to 23 on Kelley Barracks and Panzer Kaserne, the IMCOM-Europe Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition took participants from the fitness center to the firing range, with stops in the classroom and at a conference table.

"It's kind of like [the movie] 'Any Given Sunday.' Whoever wants it the most," said Command Sgt. Major John M. Gaines, IMCOM-E command sergeant major. "We test what they know and what they think they know."

The result was a chance not only to identify the top Soldier and NCO performer but to improve the overall Soldier skills of each participant. Winners will go on to represent IMCOM-E in the Army-wide competition, held at Fort A.P. Hills, VA., later this year.

The contest began May 21, as competitors reported to the Kelley Fitness Center at 6 a.m. for pushups, sit ups and a two-mile run around the installation. Following the physical fitness test, Soldiers boarded vans bound for the indoor rifle range on Panzer Kaserne for their next event: Weapons qualification. Using M-16 rifles, Soldiers fired 20 shots from two different positions: supported prone (on sandbags) and unsupported prone (on elbows), at a target 25 meters away. Scores were determined by how close shots came to the target's center.

"The best Soldiers are poised and focused. They take one task at a time and don't let their competitors get to them," said Sgt. Adam Villareal of USAG Vicenza, following the indoor event.

The competition returned to Kelley Barracks later that afternoon for a mental marathon as the candidates traded their rifles for pencils in order to complete an essay and written exam. The day ended on Cooper Field as Sgt. First Class Vincenzo Avanzini of the USAG Stuttgart Military Police evaluated each Soldier's knowledge of selected Warrior Tasks and Drills, such as the ability to read terrain features on a map or perform a routine maintenance check on a MK19 grenade launcher. "Every Soldier should be able to shoot, move and communicate on the battlefield," said Avanzini. "These tasks are designed to pinpoint all three major skill sets."

The second day began at dawn under drizzly skies as Soldiers completed a 20-kilometer ruck march through the wooded area adjacent to Panzer Kaserne. Start time was 4:30 a.m. Soldiers were given four hours to finish the event. "You either qualify, or you don't," said 1st Sgt. Jose Cruz of USAG Stuttgart. "It's that simple."

The competition gave no pause for sore feet as Soldiers transitioned immediately to the land navigation event, held in the Limited Training Area. Soldiers were given three items: a laminated map, protractor and compass. The task was to find five markers in under three hours for a maximum of 50 points. Later that evening, Soldiers regrouped at the LTA to repeat the event using the same three items and a batch of chem lights.

"You really have to know what you're doing to get close," said Spc. Marco Garced of USAG Stuttgart, who competed in the SOY category. "There's a lot of heavy brush out there."

The final day's evaluation was centered around an appearance before a board of six command sergeant majors, who peppered Soldiers on topics ranging from military shoulder patches to the four teams currently competing in the NBA playoffs. Questions centered on such areas as leadership, military history, weapons operations and current events.

"You have to be meticulous to do well," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Q. Barbary of USAG Stuttgart, who coordinated and oversaw the three-day competition. "The point is to keep it intense. It should feel like a murder board. 'They torture us, but we get something out of it' kind of idea."

Barbary later added, "The board wants to make sure these Soldiers have the Warrior skills to survive on the battlefield."

The pressure mounts as early as the waiting room, as sponsors and their respective Soldiers inspect uniform etiquette and review Army study guides. "Showtime," as Barbary called it, begins when a Soldier knocks twice on a closed door. Shortly after, the candidate is directed to enter the room, where they salute the board, present their uniform and take a seat.

"It's nerve wrecking," said Garced, after spending more than 30 minutes under the heat lamp. "I'm just relieved it's over." Regardless of the final tally, Command Sgt. Maj. Gaines noted that just to compete in the event is an honor.

"What we're asking of them is over and beyond their normal duties," he said. "So in this case, they should all be proud."

The winners will be announced on June 12 during an 11:30 a.m. ceremony in Heidelberg's Patrick Henry Village Pavilion.

[Above] A board of command sergeant majors listens to a Soldier address a question May 23. The oral examination was the last in a series of events designed to determine top Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer to represent IMCOM-Europe in the Army-wide competition.

[Left] A Soldier and his sponsor take a moment to review any last-minute material in the waiting room just outside the CSM Conference Room on Kelley Barracks May 23.

[Far Left] Staff Sgt. Innis Collin of USAG Bamberg executes a Warrior Task May 21, as he sends a message via a tactical phone to Sgt. 1st Class Vincenzo Avanzini of USAG Stuttgart, standing far right. Candidates had to complete seven Warrior Tasks to qualify.

[Top] A Soldier identify key points on a map during the Land Navigation event May 22.

Justin Wagg

Justin Wagg

Garmisch Theatre to undergo major renovation project

Theater garners three awards at annual Topper ceremony

Story by Brandon Beach

Garmisch's Building 262 has had a lot of faces over the years. It was a mess hall for Soldiers assigned to the German Army's 1st Mountain Division in the 1970's. As recently as 2002, it was a Child and Youth Services Teen Center. And for the last three years, it has been home to the Garmisch Theatre Players.

This fall Building 262 is set for another major face lift, as the theater is slated to undergo a six-month renovation project, estimated at just under a half million dollars.

"The theater is functional right now, but it's ad hoc," said Director Steve Simpson, who made his directorial debut with the Players in 2001, when the volunteer troop performed out of the Pete Burke Community Center on Artillery Kaserne.

When the theater moved into Building 262 in September of 2003, the troop found its own roof to stage plays, not ideal, but a place to call home.

"We have learned to improvise since moving in," said Simpson.

The challenges were evident during an

'We basically start from scratch. Each production takes on its own metamorphosis.'

Steve Simpson

Garmisch Theatre Director

April 7 performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace," a three-act play directed by Lorraine Webb, which included a cast of 14 people. The play competed in this year's Tournament of Plays in Heidelberg.

Backstage, actors quickly change in and out of costumes, while surrounded by remnants of a kitchen that has yet to be removed. Several props are stacked up on top of a sink



Brian McGrail, left, won a Best Supporting Actor Topper award for his portrayal of Teddy Brewster. The Garmisch Theatre Players performed "Arsenic and Old Lace" in April.

in the back corner. Out on stage, actors side-step a floor-to-ceiling pillar that dissects the audience's view in half.

"That pillar is by far our biggest production challenge," said Simpson.

Kitchen equipment and the pesky pillar will be the first items removed when a crew from Weilheim Bauamt, a German construction firm, gets the wrecking tools out.

"Without the kitchen, we can enlarge the theater in that direction," said Michele Schneider, director of USAG Garmisch Crafts and Entertainment, who envisions a more professional backstage area and storage area for props and costume pieces. "Sometimes it seems the theater is just popping out of its seams."

With an enlarged stage and an extra fire exit, Schneider expects the seating capacity to jump from 50 seats to just over 80 following the renovation. On the final performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace" for example, more

than a dozen community members had to be turned away at the box office.

"That's really frustrating when we have to do that," said Schneider. "But fire regulations top us out at 50."

The scope of the renovation, according to an e-mail sent to The Citizen by Russell Stokes, an engineer with the USAG Garmisch Department of Public Works, includes among other things "removing the serving line and equipment; enlarging the stage; repairing the equipment room; increasing the seating area; repairing the flooring and ceiling; and adding a fire exit."

Simpson explained that several months before a production cycle he sets up a series of canvas panels to recreate the staging area. Audience chairs are adjusted. The pillar is renegotiated, and the lighting is reconfigured.

"We basically start from scratch," said Simpson, who has directed 15 plays while at the theater's helm. "Each production takes on its own metamorphosis."

The renovation will mean a permanent stage with multiple light fixtures, carpet to improve the acoustics, stage wings and a curtain.

"It will mean more time to deal with acting and not all the technical things," said Schneider.

Other theater programs

Since 2005, the theater has hosted the Children's Summer Theater, offering a variety of in-depth workshops such as set design and costume making. During the program, the theater teams with the neighboring Arts & Crafts Center, which houses a woodshop and sewing room. Last year, more than 35 kids signed up to learn about life on the stage.

"We try to get them involved in all aspects of theater," said Schneider. "The program tops off with a show at the end."

In addition, the theater hosts a one act fall festival, which Simpson said "is an easy way for first timers to get into theater."

Both programs this year will be put on hold until after the renovation is completed.

Theater wins at Toppers

The Garmisch Players won three Topper awards at the annual Tournament of Plays, held April 21 in Heidelberg's Village Pavilion Ballroom. The ceremony, where women sparkle in evening gowns and men stride in black tuxedos, is the military community's version of the Oscars. It is hosted by the Installation Management Command Europe.

Brian McGrail won a Best Supporting Actor award for his portrayal of Teddy Brewster in "Arsenic and Old Lace;" Anna Webb took home a trophy for Best Make-up and Hair Design; and for her graphics efforts, Bobbie Oakland won the Best Poster category. Last year, Simpson won a Topper for Best Stage Design in the drama, "Hound of the Baskervilles."

"In three years, we have come a heck of a long way," said Schneider.

For more information about the theater contact Michele Schneider, director of USAG Garmisch Crafts and Entertainment, at 440-3475/civ. 08821-750-3475 or e-mail michele.schneider@us.army.mil.

Stuttgart Theatre Center debuts 'High School Musical'



Kristen Glogowski, right, and Anna Jenkinson finish off the play's opening song with some pom pom bravado May 24.



photos by Brandon Beach



Story by Brandon Beach

Baniacs, jocks and skaters light up the stage as the Stuttgart Theatre Center presents the Disney Channel's "High School Musical - On Stage" through June 17.

"It doesn't even pretend to take itself seriously," said Director Brett Harwood of the boisterous Disney script. The cast includes more than 50 teenagers, mostly from Patch High School, and two adults. "The kids really are the stars in this one. They've been incredible."

The play centers around Troy Bolton, the captain of East High's

[Top] Michele Whitbeck, left, and Stormie McClelland share a moment on stage May 24.

[Left] Raqi Barnett not only played Ms. Darbus on stage but was one of the play's dance choreographers.

basketball team, and Gabriella Montez, a member of the academic club, who secretly audition for the lead roles in the school's musical.

From demanding pop ballads that could have been written for Mariah Carey to sweeping dance pieces, the musical has been "a huge undertaking from the first day," said Harwood. "Rarely are kids given this kind of responsibility on stage."

Zachary Page, a PHS junior and one of the play's four leads, said he had to take a crash course on formal dance, something his co-star, Michele Whitbeck, helped out with.

"I've always just done straight plays," said Page, who was last seen in the theater's production of "Brighton Beach Memoirs." "In this you have to dance, sing and act. It's definitely different than anything else."

For ticket reservations, call the theater at 421-2315/civ. 0711-729-2315.

Stuttgart youth extend hand to Slovakian school

Group joins other European ministry teams in service trip

Story by Jon Graham

For the past 11 years, Military Community Youth Ministries has lead students on a service-focused trip to needy areas of Europe.

This year more than 800 students, leaders and support staff from around Europe met in Liptovsky Mikulas to serve and share God's love with Slovakian students and teachers. From the Stuttgart community 36 students and 9 staff gave their week to serve.

All the youth groups and leaders stayed at Tetrandia Holiday Village. Each morning teams would leave for their work sites. The Stuttgart team traveled just 15 minutes to the school in Liptovsky Jan. Our students planned and worked in both the physical cleanup and construction projects along with relational ministry opportunities. Each day students and staff served the Slovak school in areas including:

- Construction of a new playground and free standing basketball hoops;
- repairs, replacement and painting of old equipment;
- planned and lead children's bible clubs;
- planned and lead youth group for older students;
- planned and lead English classes;
- and, spent after school time with local students.

In the evenings after eating and cleaning up, all student gathered in a local church to sing praises with the band "330 Plan," listen to speaker Dave Shroder and see a slide show of pictures from all the work sites.



[Above] Christina Lowry of USAG Stuttgart, right, enjoys a ride with a student from Liptovsky Jan, an elementary school in Slovakia. [Right] From digging holes to replacing worn equipment, more than 36 Stuttgart youth helped install a new playground at the school in April.



At the end of an awesome week, we hosted a celebration and opened the new playground.

Jon Graham
USAG Stuttgart Chapel

One night the U.S. ambassador to Slovakia Rodolphe M. Vallee visited and shared a few words of encouragement to the group.

At the end of an awesome week, we hosted a celebration for the school and opened the new playground. The principal expressed thanks for the project that we completed,

but was even more thankful for the time and effort spent interacting with the Slovakian students. Even the town mayor came to express the thanks of their community. Both leaders extended an invitation for us to come back. Because we finished our work ahead of schedule, we used our last day to go on a hike with the principal, some teachers and students to the springs for which the town was founded. It was a great way to end. Every student made positive comments of how they were impacted.

Some comments from students:

Kate said, "The most impact was working with these two Slovakian kids named John and Marto. It was cool to see them go towards God."

Rubens noted, "The most important thing that I learned was that God is with me every single day."

Alexis said, "I just wanted to say this has helped me grow in my relationship with God so drastically. I have been a Christian for 25 days and loving each day more and more."

Special thanks to the USAG Stuttgart Chapel for supporting all the efforts of the youth group, the SCSC, 1800 Worship Service and NHS for their donations of funds.

Through these funds, those raised by the youth group and youth individually, the cost of the trip and all supplies used/donated to the Liptovsky Jan school were covered. A total of \$26,129.20 was raised or donated by students and staff.

Graham is the youth leader for the USAG Stuttgart Chapel.

For more information on this and other outreach program, call the Stuttgart Chapel at 430-5000 or 0711-680-5000.

Garmisch Chapel extends religious education, outreach with new annex

Story & photo by
Brandon Beach

The U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Chapel boosted its religious operations when it unveiled its new annex building this past winter. The annex adds four new classrooms, nursery room, kitchen and fellowship hall to the church.

Started in June of 2005, the horse-shoe shaped building connects in two wings to the existing chapel, with an outdoor grass courtyard in the middle.

Previously, the chapel held religion classes in the basement of the church. With both a Protestant and Catholic congregation, the chapel offers Sunday Bible studies and numerous classes throughout the week, said Richard Pacania, the chapel's chaplain.

Without much of a view before, classrooms now look out to the picturesque Alps



Garmisch's new chapel annex opened this year.

nearby, including the Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain.

The church has about 120 members, with many visitors from the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort attending its two Sunday services, said Pacania.

For more about the chapel, call Chaplain Richard Pacania at 440-2819 or 08821-750-2819 or e-mail richard.pacania@garmisch.army.mil.

Stuttgart Chapel confirms 13 youth during Catholic ceremony on Patch

Story & photo by Brandon Beach

In the Catholic church, confirmation is considered a sacred right of passage.

Thirteen Stuttgart-area youth took that step in an April 24 ceremony, held in the Holy Trinity Church on Patch Barracks.

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien and Cpt. Lawrence Bleboo, USAG Stuttgart Catholic chaplain, presided over the hour-and-a-half ceremony.

In addition to songs and scripture readings, the official ceremony was held in two parts: The laying of hands, in which O'Brien placed a hand on the head of each confirmand praying to the Holy Ghost, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

"You're here to take a stand," said O'Brien, addressing the 13 youth and their sponsors standing before him. "It's probably one of the most important stands you will take for the rest of your lives."

Most of the confirmands were between the ages of 13 and 15 years old. Before confir-



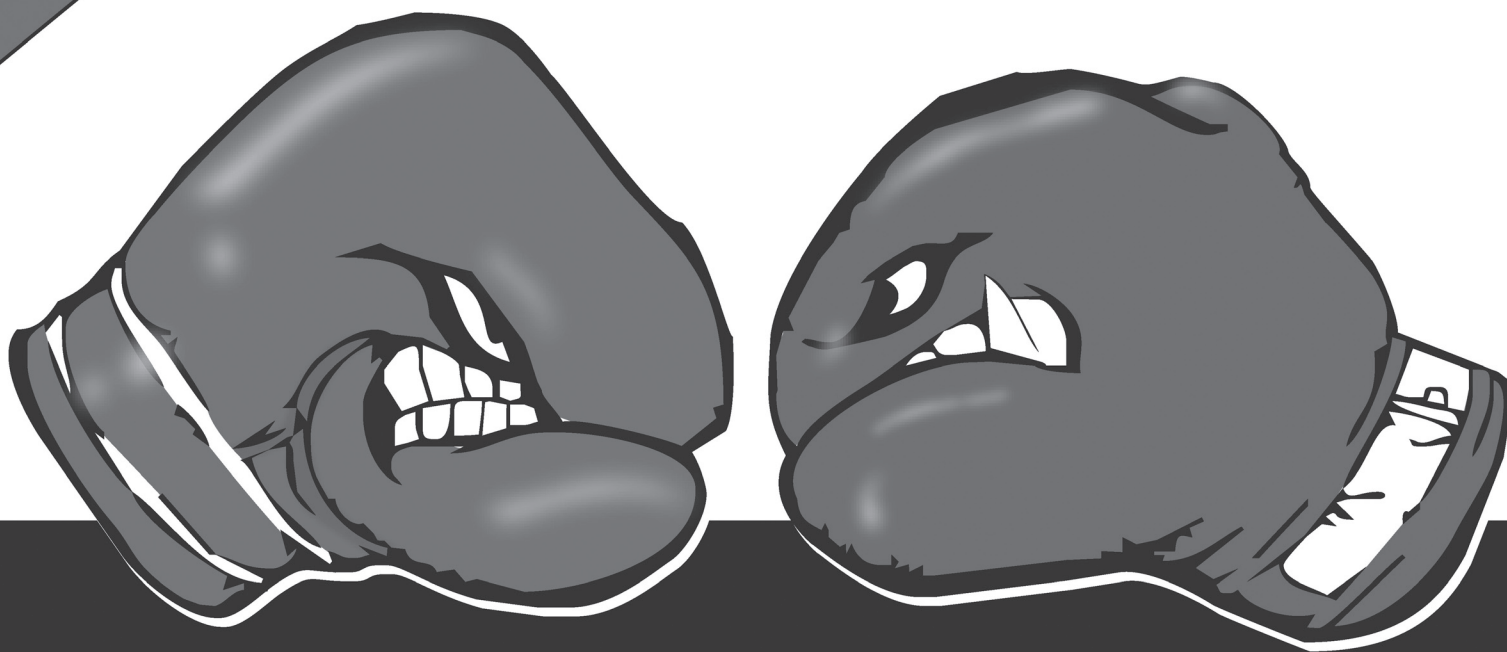
Archbishop Edwin O'Brien presided over a confirmation ceremony in which 13 Stuttgart-area youth took a personal 'stand' to join the church.

mation, they complete two years of religious education, which runs from Sept. to May, explained Bleboo.

In the weeks prior to the ceremony, confirmands wrote letters to the Archbishop stating their reasons for joining the church.

"We are made in his [God's] image," concluded O'Brien. "We have the breath of God in each of us. Let us proclaim that mystery of faith."

FREE
Admission



Battle of the

Titans

The Challenge

Doors open at 6 p.m., first bout begins at 7 p.m.

All Active Duty
military 18 or older
welcome to participate
Weigh-ins & physicals
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
on the day of the event



23 June Panzer Fitness Center

Awards will be presented to the Top 3 Teams, Individuals who place 1st & 2nd in each weight class and all participants get an event T-shirt.

To register go to the nearest Stuttgart Fitness Center
For more info, call the Patch Fitness Center DSN 430-7136 CIV 0711-680-7136 or
Panzer Fitness Center DSN 431-2724 or CIV 07031-15-2724





photos by Brandon Beach

US, German baseball squads square off on Patch Barracks

U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart hosted the Sindelfingen Squirrels for an evening of friendship through baseball. The Squirrels played Stuttgart's own Child and Youth Services Sports and Fitness Senior Level Team May 9 on Patch Barracks' Husky Field. Manuel Gilberts, president of the Baden-Württemberg Baseball Sports Verein, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. The game featured grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, intermingled with the crack of the bat and the familiar melody of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." In the end, the CYS squad edged out the Squirrels 14-12.



'Sunday' drivers test speed, limit at Nürburgring

Famous Formula 1 track gives weekend enthusiasts a thrill

Story and photo by Mark Lucas

When people PCS to Germany, they think of the opportunities for travel, great beer, Oktoberfest, skiing in Bavaria, and fine sports cars. They also think about this thing called the Autobahn and another European favorite: Formula One. Well, speed freaks, if you haven't heard about one of the world's premiere Formula One racetracks, then here you go: it is called Nürburgring, and it's in your own backyard.

The Nürburgring, commonly known as "the Ring" by sports driving enthusiasts, is the name of a famous motorsport race track located in Nürburg, Germany, which was opened in 1927 and is located about 90 kilometers southwest of Cologne and 100 kilometers northwest of Mainz. The track originally had four configurations: the 21 km. long Gesamtstrecke, or "Combined Loop," the 23 km. Nordschleife or "Northern Loop," and the 7.8 km. Südschleife or "Southern Loop."

Drive fast, but drive within your limits.

James Waltman
USAG Stuttgart

Today, the most popular track is the Nordschleife, which attracts a wide variety of automotive enthusiasts, from hard core drivers with \$100,000 sports cars, to spectators who simply enjoy watching fast cars. Although the track can be found open on Saturday evenings and weeknights, it is primarily open to the public on Sundays. This is Sunday driving on steroids.

Veteran Nordschleife driver and BMW M3 owner, Larry Lenkeit, spoke of his experiences at the track. "There are many blind corners on this track, and it takes a bunch of



A BMW driver takes a spin around the Nürburgring, a famous Formula 1 track in Germany.

laps to get it down. So going slow the first time around is the right thing to do. I have around 230 miles logged on the track. With around 100 curves and 12.2 miles per lap, it takes time to gain experience. It's far more rewarding pushing your car's limits at the track under a semi-controlled environment than it is trying to run 150 plus MPH on the Autobahn, and the track is far more challenging too."

The cost for a single lap in a car on the Nordschleife is 19 euro, but many prefer to pay for multiple laps ranging in price from 64 euro for 4 laps to 345 euro for 15 laps. Motorcycles are also welcome.

Rules of the track

There are numerous rules and courtesies for the track, such as only passing on the left. Although there is no general speed limit, it does exist in some areas in order to reduce risk and minimize noise. The track is relatively safe, but accidents occasionally happen. Drivers who crash or have an accident have a responsibility of warning other vehicles and calling for help.

First-time Nordschleife driver and BMW M3 owner, James Waltman, spoke of some of the dangers, "While we were at the track, there were at least two accidents, one track closure due to an accident, two yellow cautions [while I was driving] due to disabled vehicles and one incident with the Police showing up."

Another first-time driver and Stuttgart local Mike Thomas, who drove his Mustang GT on the track said that when he told his wife and kids that he was going to drive at the Nürburgring, they said, "You're crazy. Is your insurance paid up?"

Practice at home

In recent years, the Nürburgring's attraction has quickly spread to video games, beginning in 1998 with Sierra's PC-based racing simulation Grand Prix Legends and currently in the highly-popular Grand Turismo 4. In fact, Lenkeit recommends video games for pre-track training.

"If you have kids, and have a Playstation or Xbox system, go out and buy Grand Turismo 4. On it, there is a replication of

the Nordschleife that is extremely accurate, and it is what I used to get a feel for the track prior to my first visit. It's track-accurate, but it doesn't reflect the elevation changes in the real world. Your ears pop while doing a lap on the track!"

Sunday driving

Some vehicles are designed for the difficult turns and speeds of the Nordschleife. Others are not and built more for straight line acceleration and raw muscle, like Thomas' Mustang GT. Mike commented about the difference between his machine and the M3s of Larry and James, "My Mustang GT is stock and a good straight line car with a lot of horsepower, but its stock suspension and tires let me down long before the horses did. Having some suspension tuning and better tires on my Mustang GT would have allowed me to stick better with the faster cars on the track."

The Nordschleife is not only for racing, but also used as a test track for many of the top automobile manufacturers in the world. "It is one of the most famous tracks in the world, hence its attraction. Many of the cars on the road today were designed and tested at the 'Ring' prior to production. BMW, Porsche, Audi, VW, GM, Cadillac and the new Corvette, Honda, Nissan, etc. all test at Nürburgring," says Lenkeit.

Vehicles of all types and sizes come to the world-famous Nordschleife course. From family sedans, station wagons, and tour buses to performance-modified track machines and highly exotic sports cars, they all come to experience the thrill of the speedway, the excitement of racing, and the culmination of a car enthusiast's dream: to drive at the Nürburgring.

A final bit of advice from Waltman: "Drive your car the best you know how. Do not think you are a race car driver, because you are not. Drive fast, but drive within your limits. And have fun."

For our Stuttgart Nürburgring driving enthusiasts, Sunday driving has certainly taken on new meaning.

Autism support group starts up in Stuttgart

Story by Nancy Parker

Families affected by autism now have an opportunity to participate in a monthly support group at the Army Community Service Center on Panzer Kaserne. The newly-formed Stuttgart Area Autism Support Group offers resources, legal information and a chance to share information about the effects of autism.

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects normal functioning of the brain. Individuals with autism often have impaired verbal and non-verbal communications skills, and social interaction skills.

Autism affects about 1 in every 150 births in the U.S., and according to the U.S. Department of Education, the incidences are expected to increase.

"Information concerning autism at an overseas duty station is very limited," said group co-founder Charlotte Hogan. "We want to provide families with a centralized location to get the information they need."

The group is for families that have a child, or for anyone who has been touched by autism or related disorder such as Asperger's Disorder or Pervasive Development Disorder. This also includes, neighbors, caregivers, or anyone interested in more information and support.

"It's a comfort to be able to talk with other people who share your concerns, and not feel so alone," Hogan said.

Another important focus of the group is awareness. Early detection and diagnosis

It's a comfort to be able to talk with other people who share your concerns, and not feel so alone.

Charlotte Hogan
USAG Stuttgart ACS

can lead to better treatment options which can reduce some of the challenges associated with the condition.

Future plans for the group include developing a lending library with recommended reading lists, Web site referrals, and an Internet message board.

"The group is still in the planning stages. We want this to be a member-driven group to address their needs and wants; their input and suggestions will always be considered," Hogan said.

Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Jodi Cilley at 0711-470-6889 or Jodi.Cilley@eu.dodea.edu or Charlotte Hogan at 0711-489-4170.

Local schools take steps to reduce risk of Hantavirus

Story by Susan Mizgala
Stuttgart Health Clinic

Many members of the Stuttgart community may have heard that a person in the community was diagnosed with Hantavirus. Although it is not confirmed where the exposure occurred, local schools have taken precautions to reduce the risk of any potential exposure.

A team from Heidelberg MEDDAC Preventive Medicine Service inspected several Stuttgart-area schools following established procedures and made recommendations to reduce the risk of Hantavirus.

The schools followed up on the recommendations in eliminating the pest hazard and sanitized several buildings. Rodent droppings collected at the school were sent to a laboratory in Stuttgart and tested negative for Hantavirus.

Background

Hantavirus is a virus transmitted by certain rodents. Rodents are the natural reservoir for Hantaviruses. Known carriers include the striped field mouse (*Apodemus agrarius*), the brown or Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), the bank vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*), and the yellow-necked field mouse (*Apodemus flavicollis*).

Exposure occurs when a human comes in contact with rodent droppings, urine, saliva or dust from the rodent nest. The

infected material enters the body by inhalation, or exposure to mucous membranes (eyes, nose, & mouth) or broken skin.

The Hantavirus is capable of causing two types of severe illness: Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS) or Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS).

The type of virus more common to Europe is HFRS. It is less severe and has a better outcome. HPS is found in the Americas and has a significant fatality rate.

The typical incubation for HFRS is two to four weeks with sudden onset of fever, headache and fatigue followed by severe abdominal pain, lower back pain, nausea and vomiting. The typical incubation for HPS is about two weeks with a sudden onset of respiratory distress.

Prevention of Hantavirus includes controlling the rodent population; avoiding contact with rodents/rodent droppings, urine and nesting material; and, eliminating dust by sweeping or vacuuming. Persons concerned about exposure or illness should check with their local health care clinic for more information.

If you notice rodents in any facility on post, please contact Pia Wahl of Pest Management at 421-6261 or 0711-729-6261 or Susan Mizgala, USAG Stuttgart Community Health Nurse, at 430-7122 or 0711-680-7122. Additional info may be found at www.stuttgart.army.mil.

HEALTH CARE CORNER

U.S. Army Health Clinic Stuttgart

Hours of Operation

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Thursdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Pharmacy

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Immunizations

Walk-in basis
Closed noon to 1 p.m.

Well Baby Care

Every Tuesday

Laboratory

M, T, W, F: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursdays: 1 to 4 p.m.

Physical Exams

Active-duty only (by appt.)
430-6817/civ. 0711-680-6817

Well Woman Care

Every Wednesday

Appointments

430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610 or 430-8611/civ. 0711-680-8611
Tricare beneficiaries can also make appointments online.
Visit www.tricareonline.com.

Stuttgart Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Active-Duty Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

All Others Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Appointments

430-8626/civ. 0711-680-8626

Garmisch Dental Clinic

Hours of Operation

Mon., Wed & Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tue: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / Thurs: 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Military Sick Call

Mon. to Fri.: 7:30 to 8 a.m.

Appointments

440-3414/civ. 08821-750-3414

Note

In accordance with Army Regulation 40-3, dental services are limited to space-available care for other than active-duty servicemembers

In case of an after-hours emergency call the MP desk to access the on-call patient liaison:
Stuttgart 430-5262/civ. 0711-680-5262 / Garmisch 440-3827/civ. 08821-750-3827

IMCOM sets June 11 application deadline for mentoring program

By Mary Tanzer

U.S. Army Installation Management Command has announced that applications for the fiscal 2008 Centralized Mentoring Program will be accepted through June 11.

Employees who are GS-11 through GS-13, or equivalents, may apply to be matched with senior leaders for a one-year mentoring partnership. Applications will be accepted from personnel covered by the National Security Personnel System whose positions are equivalent to GS-11 through GS-13 positions.

Mentees complete a one-week shadow assignment, stretch assignments, eLearning courses and regular meetings with their mentors.

The Mentoring Program is designed to develop high-potential employees into well-rounded managers at the middle or senior level by preparing them to assume higher levels of responsibility. Headquarters IMCOM centrally funds the competitive program.

Senior leader volunteer mentors also are being solicited. A number of IMCOM senior leaders will be selected as mentors and matched with selected mentees. Mentors participating in the program report gaining from their mentor service. They

are motivated to review their own goals and professional courses of action as they set the example for their mentees.

Applications require supervisor's approval, and garrison applicants require endorsement from the garrison commander or manager or the deputy garrison commander.

Region applicants require an endorsement from region director or designee. Applicants at Headquarters IMCOM must obtain their supervisor's and division chief's approval.

Where to apply

Announcements and application forms are at <http://www.imcom.army.mil/site/hr/wfdhcmp.asp>.

Send applications by mail or e-mail to the IMCOM mentoring program manager, Mary Tanzer, by June 11. Contact Tanzer at 703-602-5487 or Defense Switched Network 332-5487, or e-mail Mary.Tanzer@hqda.army.mil for more information.

Applicants selected for the program will attend a two-day orientation in October.

Tanzer is the IMCOM mentoring program manager. This release originally appeared online at www.ima.army.mil.

Spouses' Club opens new thrift shop, awards scholarships to local youth

Story and photo by Julie Gifford

The New Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club Thrift Shop celebrated its Grand Opening May 14. USAG representative, Carl Pritchard, along with Lucinda Carmichael, manager of the SCSC Thrift Shop, were on hand to cut the ribbon.

The new Thrift Shop is now a combined, bigger and better store which joins together the former Patch and Panzer Consignment and Thrift Shops. The SCSC Thrift Shop is located on Patch at the former Main PX location. The hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and every second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The SCSC Thrift Shop's purpose is to provide community authorized patrons the on-post service of a second-hand or used personal property disposal and acquisition facility. Since 2004, the Thrift Shop has contributed over \$130,500 to the SCSC Welfare fund which in turn, donates the money back into our military community. Many thanks to Col. Juergens and the USAG staff as well as the countless SCSC volunteers who made this day possible and continue to help ensure the SCSC Thrift Shop's success.

Scholarships awarded

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club (SCSC) distributed \$32,500 in scholarships May 15. The recipients were Valerie Dorrian,



Carl Pritchard and Lucinda Carmichael cut the ceremonial ribbon May 14.

Silvia Nickell, Bradley Bergfeld, Michael Brady, Matthew Gorry, Aubrey Hoffmeier, Natalie Lampert, Kylie Marchant, Tamara Opplinger, Michael Sexton, Rachel Smith and Andrew Tribble.

Jeanne Glogowski, chairperson of the SCSC Scholarship Committee, said, "The committee contributed many hours of hard work and dedication to the award process this year. We even developed a new category for continuing students which we look forward to awarding next year."

SCSC would like to extend its gratitude to Jeanne and the committee which consisted of Karen Catto, Sonja Jackson, Kris Butz, Julia Eckart, Ginny Dyess and Sally Ann Jaeger.

For more information on the SCSC scholarship program, please contact scscscholarship@yahoo.com. Scholarship applications will be available Jan. 2008.

You & SNAP

A winning combination for our security.



The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is always looking for committed community members to help keep our installations safe. For more about how you can become a volunteer call the SNAP office today.

Stuttgart Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program
DSN: 430-5560 / CIV: 0711-680-5560
earnest.epps@us.army.mil

'P.A.U.S.E.' for security

Watch out for the clues
& know what to do.

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings – especially when exiting bars or restaurants.
- Be a "people watcher" while out in public. Remain alert at all times.
- Avoid high risk areas and demonstrations, and vary your travel patterns so as not to be predictable.
- Never get out of your vehicle without checking for suspicious persons. If in doubt, drive away.
- Know how to react if you are being followed. Do not drive home, but go to the nearest safe place and report the incident to the local U.S. military police.
- If you observe suspicious activity, write down license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles. Report descriptions of the occupants and the vehicle to the U.S. military police as quickly as possible.
- Report anyone or anything that you think is suspicious.

Always remember to "P.A.U.S.E." for safety:

- Prepared – Memorize important phone numbers.
- Alert – Always stay aware of your surroundings.
- Unpredictable – Vary your patterns to thwart surveillance.
- Secure – Keep doors and windows locked at all times.
- Exercise Caution – If a situation seems dangerous, avoid it.

U S A G S T U T T G A R T p r e s e n t s

RUNNERS WANTED.**NEW
CATEGORY:
UNIT TEAM
COMPETITION****2007 COBBLESTONE CLASSIC****9 JUNE 2007
10 A.M. PATCH
HUSKY FIELD****RACE IS 7.5K & FOLLOWS
THE HISTORIC TANK TRAIL
FROM PATCH TO PANZER****POST RACE AWARDS CEREMONY
AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
TRANSPORTATION BACK TO PATCH PROVIDED****MUST BE 10 YEARS OR OLDER
INDIVIDUALS: \$15 FAMILY: \$25****FOR MORE INFO, CALL PATCH FITNESS CTR, DSN 430 7136 OR CIV. 0711 680 7136**